

**TOP SECRET**

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

[Redacted Box]

25X1

DATE 15 February 1962

Tape #6

Copy No. 5

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DEBRIEFING OF FRANCIS GARY POWERS

Tape: #6  
Date: 15 February 1962  
Time: 0915 hours

Present: Mr. Powers

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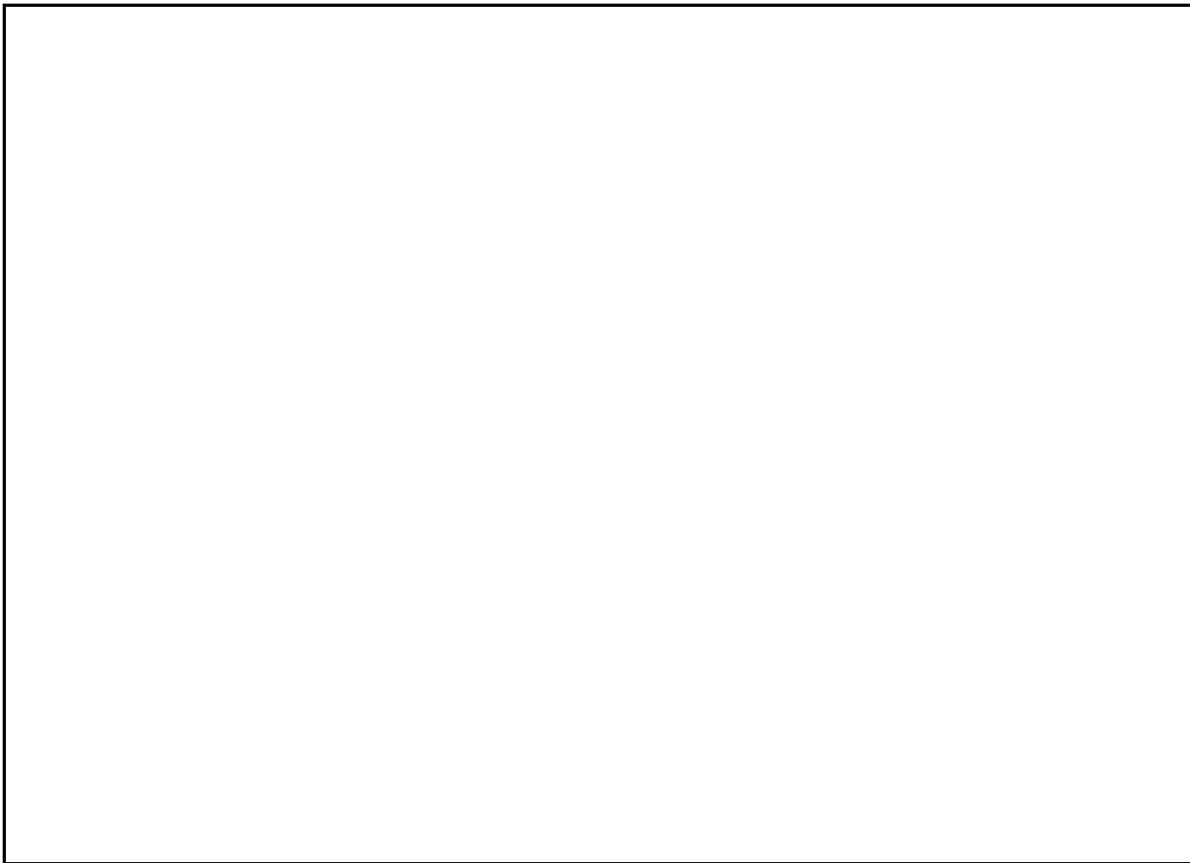
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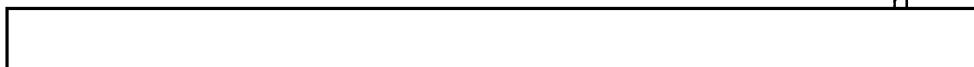
Well, if you don't mind, let me borrow thes photos, take them down to Washington, and I'll get them ~~back~~ back to you. We'll make some copies of them.

Powers: Sure.

25X1A9A



Lets go on. I think from that we can possibly identify the man. Now then, you recall our previous ~~conver~~ conversation ended about the time you were on the ground and...you were being taken out of your helmet and all that. Now ~~then~~ then,



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lets go back to that point and there's...well, we may appear to skip here...as you know we're pressed for time and I want to get certain things on the record...so let me...with that in mind why...lets go ahead....When you got ~~x~~ on the ground...You didn't try to escape?

Powers: No, there was...while I was still lying there on the ground with the parachute ~~and the other~~ dragging me, one man was helping me out ~~x~~ of the parachute and the other was trying to help me up, and the time I got on my feet and got this helmet off, there was a large group around.

25X1A9A ☐ There ~~x~~ was just no opportunity to even think of escaping?

Powers: I think I couldn't have gotten through this group if none of them were armed...I don't think any of them were, but it was just a large press of people and I could not have gotten through any way.

25X1A9A ☐ Yeah, now then...

Powers: And they had also taken this .22 pistol away from me before I had an opportunity to even think about it.

25X1A9A ☐ You didn't resist in any way?

Powers: No, I gave no active resistance.

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25X1A9A  Why didn't you resist?

Powers: Just too many people.

25X1A9A  Uh-huh. It just would have been foolhardy in other words?

Powers: That's what it ~~x~~ seemed to me. It just seemed that...well, I'm alive right now. I could try to ~~x~~ escape which I wanted to do. I was pretty much in shock at the time also, and I don't suppose I was ~~thinking~~ thinking too clearly, but I was looking around trying to see some ~~was~~ way to escape or something to do and all these people milling around....It was just impossible to do anything, in my opinion.

25X1A9A  Now then, lets skip for a moment. They took in to Sverdlovsk, and then you went by this plane ~~x~~ in to Moscow.

When you got to Moscow, where did they take you?

Powers: To the...the place I stayed all the time.

25X1A9A  Lubyanka Prison?

Powers: Well, I never did hear the name of this place. It's now on Dzerzhinski Square. I heard later that I had been in that prison, so...I don't know if it was from American news source or western news source or not, but I stayed at this same place all the time. It seemed to be more or less a

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KGB headquarters of some kind.

25X1A9A

Yeah, that would be Lubyanka. Were you ever taken to any other prison there in Moscow?

Powers: Yes, after the ~~x~~ trial when I saw my wife on the 24th of August, they took me to another prison, ~~he~~ brought her there, and left us alone for three hours.

25X1A9A

At the risk of trying to lead you, can you recall, was that building sort of shaped like a "k"?

Powers: Uh...

25X1A9A

Like so...like this would be the main wing and then there was a wing leading off in this direction and another wing leading off in this direction and there was a center area about like that?

Powers: Not that I know of. I mean I didn't see anything that would give any indication. There was more than one building and they were not attached. All I can remember is there was a wooden fence along the road that we came down. I had no idea what was there. There was a lot of trees over in here, looked like a park. They turned in here somewhere, maybe 50...yards, I don't remember and there was a gate

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with guards on it. Went in that gate, through a ~~doorway~~ doorway here, long building, the corridor with rooms on this side...there was doors also back through here as if this building had another wing that ~~was~~ way. But we came in here, went through a door here, down this corridor. The last rooms were separated by...the hallway in front of the last two rooms was separated by a partition with a door in it. They put me in the last cell or room on the left. Kept a guard out here. Well, that isn't very clear on this tape.... And brought my wife there and allowed us to stay two hours ~~the~~ ...three hours.... When I left, same ~~was~~ way, down corridor, out the side, in the car, through the gate and away. I saw what looked like a fairly large ~~in~~ building out the ~~windows~~ window here.

Interrog: Brick?

Powers: Yes, brick. It had bars on the windows and more than four stories high.

Interrog: I'll look something up.

UNINTELLIGIBLE

Powers: No, I was in this position and this building was..I don't

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know if it extended that far...but it was back. These were not prison cells. They had...this one here had a desk and ~~a~~ ~~an~~ chair in it I think...this one had a leather couch, a table, and an easy chair of some kind.

25X1A9A

Uh-huh. Well, we'll get into that in some detail later.

When they got you into Moscow and you went to this prison, which appears to have been Lubyanka...tell us, did they put you into a cell, what was the routine, and when were you first introduced into the interrogation process? Develop ~~develop~~ that for us if you can.

Powers: Lets see. As ~~well~~ as I can remember, we came inside this building in an automobile into court yards on the inside, made a turn, too, in ~~the~~ there, took me out, took me upstairs, about four or five flights of steps, down a long hallway, into a room, made me take off all my clothes, gave me other clothes to put on. I sat there about 30 minutes.... They...after about 30 minutes, they took me into an office, very nice office by their standards, with a fairly large ~~group~~ group of people and some high-ranking people there. In fact, this...prosecuting general

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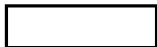
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of the Soviet Union Rudenko...Is that his name?

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Rudenko.

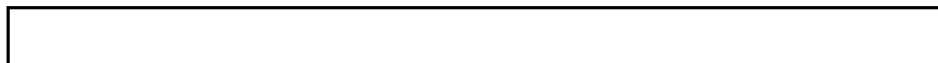
Powers: He~~x~~ was there, and I think, some other people that seemed to be very high in the KGB. I don't know what their ~~rank~~ ranks were. I think I saw one of them's photograph in the Russian newspaper not too long ago as making a speech at this congress, but...I'm not too sure it was that man, but it was very similar to him anyway....~~Several~~ Several people in uniforms, stenographer, and a lot of people standing around...and...well, I can't remember the exact time of this. It was in the afternoon.

Interrog: This was after you'd been processed and had your physical examination?

Powers: No, no, this was before.

Interrog: Before?

Powers: I had had...a little physical examination at ~~the~~ this first little village they stopped me at to paint some scratches and...I think listen to the heart was about all that happened there. They immediately started questioning me, ~~well~~ well, at Sverdlovsk, I was questioned some, but they immediately



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started taking up the same line there: who I was, what I was ~~x~~ doing, where I was ~~x~~ going, who I worked for, and all this.... This didn't last too long. I can't remember the exact time. I'm sure it was over an hour, but...or near as long as some of the sessions I had there, and at this time, well, ~~at~~ ~~Sw~~ at Sverdlovsk I saw that the story I had made up was impossible to tell them. I had, in this airplane trip and so forth, made up my mind that I wanted to ~~convince~~ convince them I was telling the truth so that when I ~~was~~ thought it necessary to tell a lie about something that I didn't want them ever ~~to find~~ to find out about, ~~the~~ that they might believe me. So I was telling them who I ~~x~~ was, who I worked for, and I knew also that they had my...this... AGO card and a few other pieces of my stuff...or very likely to have it...I didn't know that they had it, but I knew that it was in the airplane.

25X1A9A

Did you tell them at that time that you worked for CIA ~~af~~ or did you... ?

Powers: Yes, I did.

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~~Xx~~ Yeah.... Did you try this NASA log... upper-air ~~wh~~ weather pilot cover story at all ?

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Powers: I told them, yes, [REDACTED]

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...I don't ~~x~~ remember if I told them it was a ~~x~~ weather flight or what. I think so because we had, you know... that was the cover story there at Odana and so forth and that was one of the first things that would enter my mind, but I can't remember exactly whether I told them that or not. But anyway, the trip was outside the Soviet Union. I didn't give them any route or anything, but they had enough stuff ~~xit~~ right there to...they knew about it.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Uh-huh. Did they let you know right away that that story was no good?

Powers: Yes, uh-huh.... Well, they showed me the Russian rubles, the escape maps of the Soviet Union, and... some other things. I don't remember what it was, but I knew that... that was no good right there....

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Now this first interrogation that you got there at Lubyanka with all these big shots, Rudenko was there. How many people all together were there in that initial ~~int~~ interview?

Powers: There was... a desk, a small table in front of this ~~dis~~ desk, and I was sitting at the end of the small table.... Rudenko

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was on my right. Rudenko and another man was on my right. There were two men on my left at the small table. A stenographer and another man behind the desk and... I would say... six to ten people standing around in the room, back over to the left near the door....I'd say at least 15 or 20 people in there, a fairly large office... maybe, say 15 ~~xxx~~ people just as a rough guess. I really don't know.

25X1A9A

[ ]

And who did the questioning? One man, or did all of them participate?

Powers: All of them participated to a certain extent, but Rudenko seemed to be the ~~whole~~ wheel there, the one who ~~did~~ was doing the most.

25X1A9A

[ ]

And how long did that session last?

Powers: I would say the main thing they was interested in there was establishing that I was an American, that I worked for the CIA, that the purpose of my flight was ~~xxx~~ espionage...those...that seemed to be the line of questioning, and it didn't take them...I know it was over an hour, but I have no idea of how, unless it was one of the longest days

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I ever spent....It wasn't dark or it was just before dark when it was over, and I don't remember what time I got into Moscow.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Now, was this the same day you got to Moscow?

Powers: Yes, and I had been up very early the night before, very tired. I was completely exhausted.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

How'd they have you sitting? Out in the middle of the room or on a stool or...?

Powers: No, I was sitting at the end of this ~~small~~ small table in front of the desk. The ~~table~~ table was...about this...as ~~as~~ long as this table is wide here. That's what, about four feet?

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Uh-huh.

Powers: And about...two and a half wide, and it was sitting perpendicular to...to a large desk and I was sitting at the end of the table facing the desk. Rudenko was either sitting immediately on my right or up near to the desk at this table. There were two other...the interpreter was immediately on my right. That's ~~right~~ right, he was a State Department interpreter that they had borrowed -

[REDACTED]

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so he told me that day or the next, I don't remember.

But he was only there for two days.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Well, now then, ... this initiated your... your... this introduced you, you might say, to the interrogation process that you went through from then on? Is that correct?

This was the beginning?

Powers: This was the beginning or there was a slight investigation at Sverdlovsk.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Yeah. But that was the "name, rank, serial number" type thing at Sverdlovsk. This was the beginning in Moscow?

Powers: Right.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Yeah. Now then, ideally and maybe some day we'll get a chance to sit down in relaxation and try to go over and reconstruct all of these interviews, but time doesn't permit at this time. Can you... can you say over all... from the time of your arrival in Moscow, say on about the second of... the first or second of May 1960, and you were tried ... your trial started on ~~Xg~~ August 17... approximately how many interrogations did you undergo, and... and how

[REDACTED]

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long were they? How long was the longest one? I know they would vary as to the time but...how intense and how continuous was this thing?

Powers: I have some information downstairs that will help me with that later, but...this first one that ~~I~~ I was talking about, I know was over an hour, but I have no idea as to the exact ~~six~~ length of time. The second day there was none. From that day on, there was not a single day up until the latter part of May, I don't remember the exact day, I caught a bad cold, and they let me off one Saturday or one Sunday. I don't remember, but it was seven days a week and it would vary as to ~~length~~ length of time of the ~~ix~~ investigation - I mean of the interrogation - and the numbers of times a day, and there were several at night. I don't remember exactly how many, but ~~ix~~ this was mostly in the early part. And in the latter part of May, they started skipping ~~IX~~ Sundays. And later on, they would...maybe half a day that I wouldn't go in there, but it...usually...I'd say almost an average of three times a day, and ...many times, four times a day.

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Uh-hum. And how ~~long~~ long at a time?

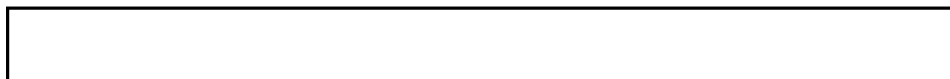
Powers: It would vary. At first...the first one started at 7 o'clock in the morning, I mean on the third of May when they started, I'd say, the official investigation. About 7 o'clock in the ~~morning~~ morning, went until about 9, I went back to the cell ~~xxx~~ ...had time to go to the toilet, so...they called me back at 9:30 or so...went ~~x~~ on until about 1 o'clock, I had an hour for lunch, came back about 2 o'clock and this one lasted, I'd say, 5 or 6 o'clock in the afternoon, came back about 7 o'clock and it went on until 9 or a little later. That was, I think, maybe the first day, and I think that was maybe the longest one I had. I tried to figure ~~x~~ it up later and I know that...it was 12 hours or more, but I don't recall what I...the figure I finally decided that it was at the time.

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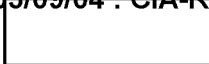


For each day?

Powers: For...that...that...was for the first day. The rest were not quite that long. There too many at night, and later on they started starting around 9 o'clock in the morning and sometimes would extend up until approximately 1 o'clock ...and then 2 o'clock in the afternoon until 6 o'clock.



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Now, during this time you were in solitary confinement in your cell in the off time?

Powers: Yes.

Interrog: And were you brought always to the same room, Gary?

Powers: ...99% of the time. There was two or three times that I went to another room. I had a couple of meetings with Rudenko. I was taken to another office one time where there was a colonel, and Air Force colonel who was a pilot, that asked me some questions.

25X1A9A

Well now, then almost immediately you had to...to arrive at some decision in your mind as to how you were going to deal with these people, that is...you could decide to tell them to go to hell, you weren't going to talk, or you ~~x~~ were going to cooperate with them to a certain extent, or you were not going to cooperate with them. How did~~x~~ you...what decision did you arrive at in this regard and how did you arrive at it?

Powers: And when?

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Yeah.

Powers: At Sverdlovsk when I saw that my story that I had made

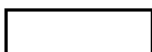
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up was no good whatsoever, I decided then...I remembered then hearing this briefing that I ~~had~~ had that ~~there~~ there would be ~~a~~ torture, that may as ~~well~~ well, in an event like this when there was capture, may as well tell them everything because they would get it out of you anyway and just make it last as long as possible because...the longer they thought you knew something, the longer you would ~~live~~ live, and I decided then that I would cooperate with them to a certain extent. There was ~~something~~ things that I was never going to tell them.

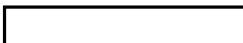
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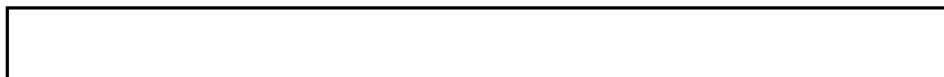
Now this was briefings that you got from  prior to going or over a period of time ?

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Powers:

I think...I'm pretty sure they were all from  and not just prior to this flight but over a ~~period~~ period of time before this flight. One probably when we...when this pin was given to us and we ~~were~~ were told what it ~~would~~ would do and we were told we could take it if we wanted to and so forth ...I think he briefed us some there, and I'm not positive whether this particular question about telling everything came up before my flight while we were studying the maps,

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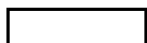
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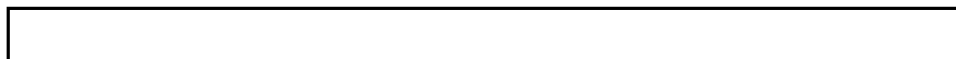
or maybe before someone else's operation that I was in on. But I do remember hearing it and I do that it came to my mind at that time.

25X1A9A



But finding yourself in this situation you had the back-  
~~xxxx xxxxx~~ ground of briefing of that type?

Powers: Yes, and that decided my course. I don't know what I would have done if I had not thought of that. I have no idea; but, you've got to realize that I was in a ~~pretty~~ pretty good state of shock at the time, I...probably wasn't thinking too clearly, although it seems to me I was, but I was nervous, my heart was...pulse rate very fast, and, felt horrible. I don't remember how long I'd been up at the time but I was completely exhausted seemed like. But anyway, this entered my mind and when I saw that my cover story did not hold up or the one that I had made up would not hold up. I knew there was...I wanted to keep as much information from them as possible...and I knew that there were some things that...that it would be very embarrassing for a lot of people if these people find out about it and I was going



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to do my best to keep that type of information from these people; but I also decided at that time and between that...  
~~At~~ that time and also on the airplane to Moscow which took a few hours, I don't remember how long, that in order to...to withhold this information that I thought was very important, I had to convince these people that I was telling them the truth. And doing that, I had to anticipate what would be released in the press ~~which~~ which I had no idea what would be. And maybe my imagination ran away with me in some of these instances because the press seems to have a pretty good intelligence system of their own....  
There was a lot of thoughts like this running ~~thru~~ through my mind, but I definitely made up my mind that some things couldn't be revealed. Other things that might appear in the press, they would know that I was telling the truth in everything. And I think it worked fairly good in several cases. But this was the time that I thought of this and...~~perhaps~~ performed a plan, or originated a plan to follow during the rest of the ~~xxx~~ course.

And now...go ahead.

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Interrog: Before you had reached Lubyanka Prison...

Powers: Uh-huh.

Interrog: ...had any threats been made?

Powers: No, no threats, but...a little, well, I don't ~~know~~ know where you would say no threats or not. They...no verbal threats, no real rough treatment, but they didn't offer me a chair and say sit down and so forth. I had some trouble with my ears. The fast descent ~~to~~ of the airplane or something ~~thing~~ had caused an ear to plug up some ~~was~~ way or the other and I kept trying to clear it up and they would come over and grab my hand and throw it down.... They ~~said~~ said, well, I couldn't understand what they were saying, but you could tell that they were...seemed ~~to~~ like pretty angry.

Interrog: Were you, any time between your point of landing and Lubyanka, handcuffed or...?

Powers: No, they started to handcuff me ~~at~~ at Sverdlovsk. The man took out a pair of handcuffs, and they talked about it. He put them back in his pocket, but they hung on to each ~~other~~ arm. Took me in the car, took me out of the airplane,

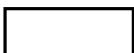
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rushed me up the steps. Two men on each side; two on the other side and no handcuffs.

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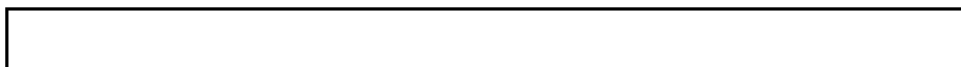
And then, ... again and I realize we're skipping like mad here to cover a lot of ground with a very few questions but to illustrate this decision that you arrived at, that you would anticipate what might appear in the ~~XXX~~ American press you had to convince them that you were telling the truth so that you could lie to them when the ~~occ~~ ~~a~~ occasion arose and you felt that there ~~x~~ was certain information that you had to protect... and the risk of being caught in a lie was always present.... It appears from analysis of the trial transcript and other information that has been published that... that you did follow this process. Now then, let me refresh your memory on a couple of things and maybe you can fill in what went on, what caused you to withhold information in these specific instances.

Powers: All right.

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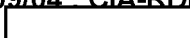


For instance, the ficti... your alias, Palmer, was disclosed at the trial, but you did have another pseudonym,



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did you not?

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A  Was that ever disclosed?

Powers: Never disclosed.

25X1A9A  The name Osan never...?

Powers: Never came up.

25X1A9A  Did they query you about other pseudonyms and other cryptonyms or code names of any kind?

Powers: I think they did, I don't remember any question right off right now, but they did ask about these and they expected me to have pseudonyms. At first I denied that I had any, and then...well, they...you see, I did a lot of traveling under this Palmer, and I assumed that it might be possible that someone would get ahold of it and it might come out, so I told them that. I knew that...that very few people knew about the Osan, so that never came out. I don't remember whether they asked me how many I had or anything like that. I'm sure they did, but Palmer was the only one that was released.

25X1A9A  Now then, testimony at the trial came out to the effect

25X1A

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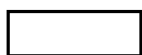


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that you claimed that you...you admitted that you completed your Air Force service and being unable to find civilian employment, you accepted a position with CIA. Now it appears that that is some variation from the truth.

Powers: Yes,...How was that again?

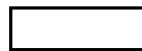
25X1A9A



Well, the published account was that you had testified that you had completed your Air Force service and being unable to find civilian employment, you accepted a position with CIA....Actually, you were selected from the Air Force for this assignment.

Powers: Yes, uh-huh.

25X1A9A



Yeah, and...

Powers: I don't remember that line of questioning there exactly, but that doesn't seem exactly all that was covered there....

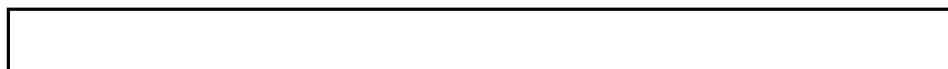
25X1A9A



Now this is only the published account, see...

Powers: I tried to keep the Air Force out of it as much as possible.

...Well, I told them that I had been in the Air Force, that I had learned to fly in the Air Force, that I had been discharged from the Air Force. I was offered a job with the CIA. I don't remember anything about being un-



25X1A

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able to find employment. I don't remember saying anything like that. I don't know, maybe I did. I can't understand, I mean, I can't remember....I was...approached by the CIA for a job, not as a member of the CIA directly, but as a contract pilot to the CIA.

25X1A9A [ ] Uh-huh.

Powers: ...and, they got into the business about any intelligent training I had. Whether I knew any codes, etc. I told them my job was to fly.

25X1A9A [ ] There was no reference to your training [ ]

25X1A

Powers: They wanted to know if I had had any of that stuff, but I told them I hadn't. I'd never been there, or I'd never been in any type of training.

Interrog: Did they ask you if you'd been to such-and-such a place?

Powers: No. Lets see...

25X1A9A [ ] Well, [ ] was referred to as a training place, as an air training school.

25X1A6A

Powers: Yes, I...mentioned that to them. That was my fault there. I don't know exactly why but I think it was because I figured that the press would get ahold of that, because I knew that

25X1A

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this would be a big story, . . . and as far as I know they didn't refer to this area but I referred to it myself.

25X1A9A [ ] Uh-huh, but you had in these discussions, am I correct now, that you were aware that the Air Force had to be protected?

Powers: I was try... I don't remember if I was ever told that the Air Force had to be protected or not, but for some reason or other, I didn't want the Air Force involved because that... it seemed to me that that might cause a lot of trouble. And I tried my best to ~~k~~ play that part down, but it was... well, the Air Force was associated with us all the way and in order for us to operate at Odana, we had to be with the Air Force on an Air Force base and... supplies had to come in in Air Force airplanes, so I knew that they knew that there was an association. But as far as my working for the Air Force even though they implied several times and even though, ... when I was released here, just a day or two before I was released, they kept referring to me as military and ~~xxx~~ that I could go back into the service. I would

25X1A

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25X1

be all right and all this. They kept trying to bring the Air Force in. This seemed to be later. At first, they didn't seem interested in that. But it seemed later they wanted to...to...seemed to me they were trying to involve the Air Force.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Did anything in...was any mention made of the Lovelace Clinic?

Powers: No, but I think I ~~mean~~ mentioned it in a letter to my wife at home, but not that I had been there in any capacity. I mean under my contract or anything.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

I think you mad reference to...to your trips to Albuquerque in...

Powers: I think I might have said to Albuquerque for a physical ~~ex~~ examination. They didn't ask where or what.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

Uh-huh. Was that...did...did...Wright-Patterson come up for discussion...?

Powers: No.

25X1A9A

[REDACTED]

...in any ~~ways~~ way in connection with this project?

Powers: Wait a minute...I really don't know. It seems to me maybe it did, but I don't know. I don't know. I can't remember....

[REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1

**TOP SECRET**

25X1A9A



It wasn't mentioned at the trial. The testimony of the trial was to the effect...that your employment required the passing of a physical examination, that the flight suit was made and tested at a special chamber. But there was no reference to a particular location?

Powers: I...I don't remember. See, this...this test and all of this took place there, but I don't remember if that ever came up by name; whether they were even interested in where it was tested, but I do remember - this is very stupid. I had a card in my belongings that said that I had...member os the 100,000-foot Altitude Club and so forth, and I think it had Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, date, and so forth on it. But I don't remember exactly how this came up or what was said about that. Maybe later I could recall what it is, but right <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~ I can't be sure.

Interrog: Gary, may I interpose just a short question? Prior to ~~this~~ this last flight of yours, were you subjected to a physical body check of what you were ~~carrying~~ carrying in your clothing?

Powers: No.



25X1A

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Interrog: That's all right.

Powers: ...on my person was, at the time, was only...the stuff that I thought I would need on the flight, but I had a small bag. I had my wallet in it, which should not have been there. It would never have been except I was landing at another place and I knew how things were going to happen on this flight. Everything was going to be all right. I had my wallet that had...I had taken a lot of stuff out of my wallet before I left home going to [ ] but I didn't take enough out.

25X6

25X1A9A

[ ]

UNINTELLIGIBLE

Powers: Uh-huh.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Going on here on another point now where it appears that you ~~xxxx~~ may have evaded and caused them some confusion. I believe it had been published that...that you said you were hesitant about renewing your contract with CIA and did so only because of lack of time to ~~xxx look~~ look for another job?

Powers: Well now...

25X1A9A

[ ]

Do you recall that?

[ ]

25X1A

25X1

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Powers: Yes, I recall that. I didn't want them to think that I was real eager to fly over the Soviet Union. And, but in truth I was really anxious to renew my contract.... I thought it would just look better...as if...I was thinking about trying to get something else and etc. I don't remember ~~xx~~ exactly how that went, but I do remember this coming up.

25X1A9A  In other words, you were playing down your own role in this thing to ~~w~~ ease the pressure on...?

Powers: That's what I was trying to do at the time.

25X1A9A  Now then, along that same line, I believe you denied any ...they asked you if you ~~x~~ were a leader or a chief or a boss of any kind?

Powers: Yes, and I ~~w~~as...

25X1A9A  You denied any leadership function. You were just a...

Powers: ...just a pilot.

25X1A9A  Yeah....Now then at the trial you, well, on this question of seven civilian pilots...which...which was a neatly turned trick or seemed to be at the trial....What did they...did they attempt to explore this thing during the

25X1A

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interrogation and how did you handle that?

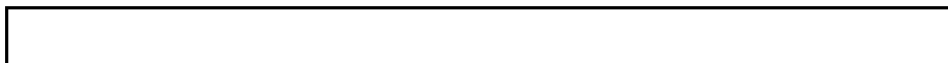
Powers: Yes, they were ~~a~~ very interested in getting the names of those pilots and I told them - no names - refused to answer.

25X1A9A



And they didn't crowd you for the names?

Powers: They pressed it and pressed it, but kept asking the question; the same way with the number of flights I had flown over the Soviet Union. I'm sure they didn't believe me but they had no other evidence that I had made any and I didn't think there was any way possible they would ever get any evidence that I had made any, and it was to my own benefit anyway that they didn't know that I had ever been there before. And I...well, on this flights, I told them I'd only made one - on the pilots I just told them ~~W~~ I will not answer the question, but I played this down in the...the reason I gave them that I wouldn't answer was not because I ~~dis~~ disliked them so much but because it might cause these pilots a lot of trouble in the United States, and they seemed to like that. Now this might have been playing into their hands some way, I don't know but it kept their names out of it.



25X1A

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25X1A9A [ ] And they gave you no indication of any knowledge of ~~any~~  
any allied participation in this project?

Powers: They asked me a direct question, other...other...nationalities, countries involved with....I lied to them about that and told them that we as Americans, who were made up of a lot of nationalities and we had...I never mentioned

25X6 [ ] I don't even know if I mentioned

25X6 [ ] but maybe I did. I ~~don't~~ don't know because just the make up of the population of the United States.

25X1A9A [ ] That was the way you got around this?

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A [ ] Were they...did they...

Powers: But they didn't press this, and that ~~was~~ surprised me because I thought they would know about... [ ] people being on the base, because all you have to do is talk to one of those people or anyone talk to them you know he isn't American. / But they didn't know this or they didn't press the question.

25X1X7

25X1A9A [ ] Did they specifically inquire regarding [ ] participation?

25X1C

Powers: No. They mentioned...any other nationalities or countries,

25X1A

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I don't know if they were countries or nationalities.

25X1A9A

[ ]

But you parried that by referring to the fact that Americans were all nationalities ?

Powers: Yes. I told them ~~not~~ that everyone there, as far as I knew, had an American passport, an American citizen but they might have been from other countries originally, but were American citizens now.

25X1A9A

[ ]

Uh-huh. Now then, another point, and of course this relates to the trial testimony, you indicated an unfamiliarity and...and...passed it off as being completely ignorant regarding the air base at Bahrein ?

Powers: Yes. I just said that we had landed somewhere and they figured out that that was where it was. I made a mistake by tellin ~~g~~ them it was on an island and I guess that's how they figured it out. I'd never been there. I knew nothing about it and I was very glad that I knew nothing about it. But we just landed there to refuel and go on because our airplane wouldn't go without refueling.

25X1A9A

[ ]

As a matter of ~~a~~ fact, did you know ~~that~~ that that was a base ?

[ ]

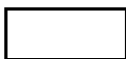
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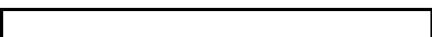
Powers: Yes. I did know ~~it~~ it was a British base...because we were met at the airplane by someone with a British uniform.

25X1A9A



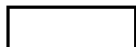
Another point is that you had familiarized yourself with

25X1A6A

the  in 1958?

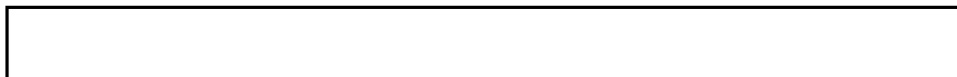
Powers: Yeah - that was...

25X1A9A



...and...it appeared to us...or it appeared ~~in~~ in such a way...or was presented in such a way in the trial as to support a supposition that this familiarization~~was~~ was for the purpose of preparing a terminal point for the over flight of May 1.

Powers: ... The only thing I told them about this was a lot of their own beliefs there. The only thing I told them about it - I knew that they ~~knew~~ knew that that was my destination... and they asked me if I had ever been there before, and I had been there before, and I figured it was best to tell them I had because...I'd remembered...if I'm not mistaken, a visa or so forth,- I don't know ~~what~~ what it was - something to do with passports, these people had a record that if I wasn't mistaken, that I had been there and it might come



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25X1

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out since that would be released as the destination of my flight this time. It would be a natural question - has he ever been here & before - so I told them that I had been there before, but I knew nothing that ~~w~~ was going on - all my job was was to take an airplane there...I waited around for transportation home. Went to night clubs, fished, and so forth.

25X1A9A

But you didn't tell the actual nature of purpose of your tdy at

25X1A6A

Powers: I told them I had no idea what the purpose was - my purpose was to take an airplane there. This time I had heard this particular thing you mentioned was during the trial when they read it out.

25X1A9A

Didn't it come out during the interrogation?

Powers: ...This came up that I was just telling you about during the interrogation, but this about the familiarization with  didn't come up.

25X1A6A

25X1A9A

Well, it came up in that context in the trial that you...that was their way of presenting it...that you had actually come there in 1958 to prepare for this...flight in 1960, which you indicated that you had withheld from them the actual pur -

25X1A

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25X1

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pose of your trip in '58?

Powers: No, I didn't...I didn't tell them that I went there to prepare for this. I just told them that I went there, had no idea why I went there except to take an airplane -and I stayed a few weeks because I had no ~~was~~ way to get back. I was ~~sk~~ waiting on transportation. My ~~k~~ job - I had no job while I was there except my time was run on. I went fishing, went to nightclubs, etc. So far as I know they had no purpose of that but that was something I wish I had thought about.

25X1A9A

Well, they furnished that. They jumped to that conclusion.

Powers: The thing...the thing about it is...I don't know if that is their conclusion or not but...what they said in this thing is not necessarily what they believe. But I didn't think of that or I could have really played that up.

25X1A9A

Now another point where...in which you appeared to have evaded them was in this matter of other over flights. Now I believe you took... took that up in some detail yesterday so we won't belabor that one. You told them less than the full truth?

25X1

Powers: K Oh, yes~~xx~~, much less.

25X1A9A

In regard to your other over flights?

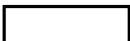
25X1A

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Powers: I told them that I had had no others - and I had had others, and I told them that I had never participated in any others, and I had done that also. In fact, I told them that no one pilot, unless he was involved, knew that there ever going to be such a thing. That we had no way of knowing what the other pilot's mission was going to be even the missions that were flown out of Turkey and so forth along the border. That we didn't know that someone was scheduled to fly, he went, the rest of us minded our own business.

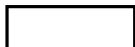
25X1A9A



Now then, tell us if you ... can to the best of your recollection, what went on during the interrogations and ... and the meaning of this interplay at the trial regarding the tail markings or the national markings on the U-2 or lack thereof.

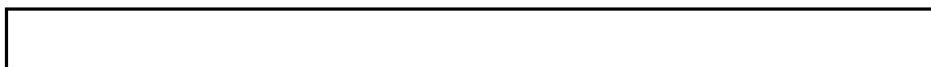
Powers: Well, I know that there was no... markings on the tail.

25X1A9A



At the time you flew?

Powers: At the time I flew. But I didn't admit to them that I knew because, I don't know, for some reason or other I got the impression that... it might have been better if the airplane was marked. I don't know why this came up or when it came up but they were. They talked a lot about that -

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markings... I told them that there had been markings on it when the airplane was down, that when I got into the airplane I didn't look at the airplane. I didn't look to see if they were there or not and I played it up, I think, was as I can remember that there was no reason why they shouldn't still be there.

25X1A9A

Then you - your evasive tactic had to do with your refusal to admit that there was no marking on the plane when you flew?

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A

As a matter of fact, you know the system of ... marking, placing markings on these planes and removing the marking, don't you?

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A

And just to refresh your memory you will recall their experts got up and said they removed the paint coat by coat and that there had never been...

Powers: Yes.

25X1A9A

...any marking...?

Powers: Well, that surprised me too. I thought maybe it was just painted over. I don't know how it came off, but I knew there was no marking on the aircraft.

25X1A

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25X1A9A [ ] Yeah. Well...then...then to sum this up...hurriedly...this  
...again I'm reluctant to do so because...there is so much  
more we can talk about on this, but time is a factor...You  
told them...what you thought they/would find out or knew  
anyway and you did on a calculated basis hope to withhold  
material that you...

Interr-: Wait for another reel. This is concluding Tape #6 on  
15 February 1962. Time is now 1021. Present: Mr. Powers,

25X1A9A [ ]

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